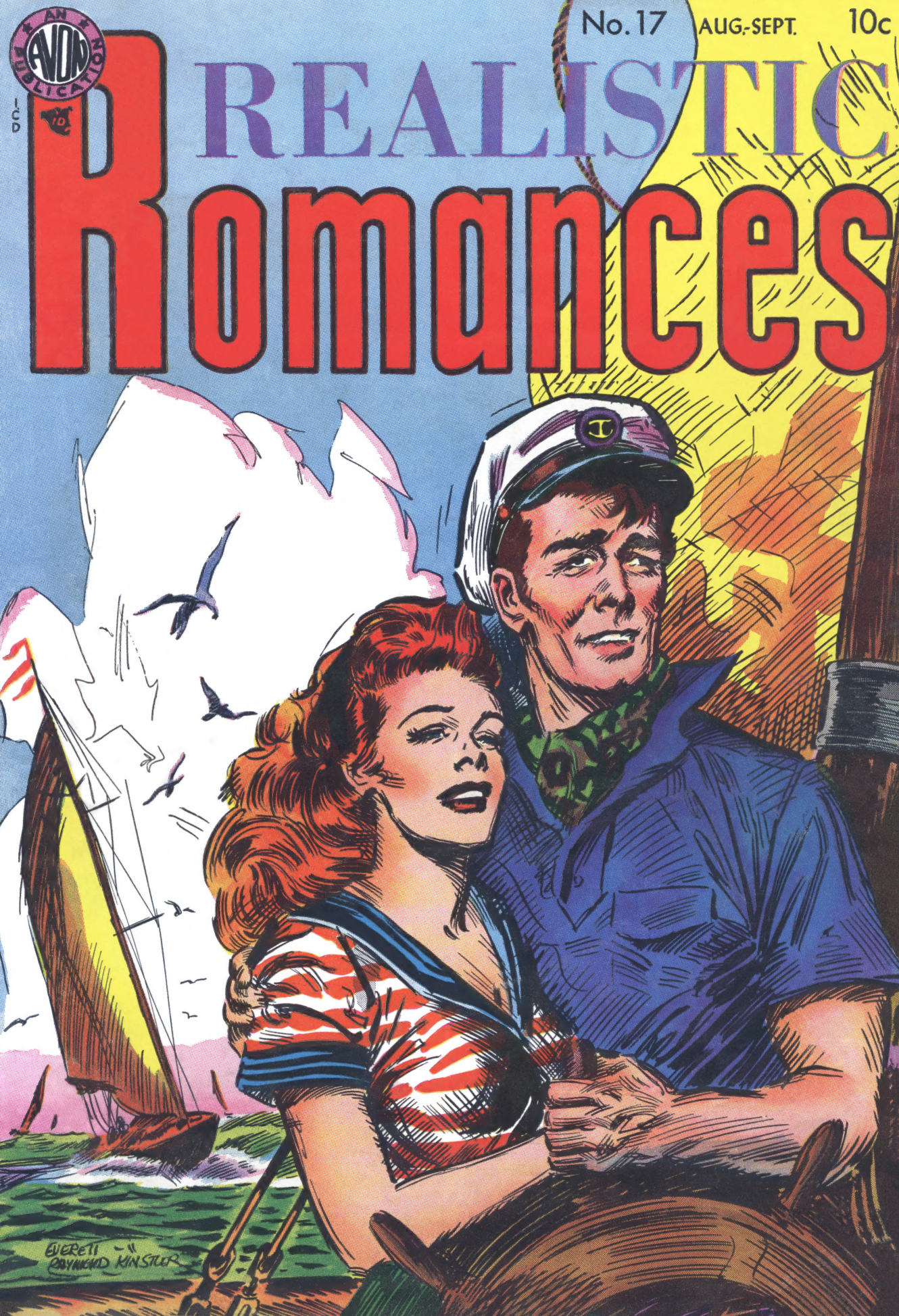

AN AVON PUBLICATION
No. 17
AUG.-SEPT.
10c
REALISTIC
Romances
EVERETT RAYMOND KINSTLER

new figure mold HIDE-A-WAIST

17 Sensational Features

Streamline Your Waist
Hide Bulges

Say "good-bye" to that unbecoming tummy bulge and clumsy waistline . . . AND instead . . . enjoy what you need most for your figure with HIDE-A-WAIST Wear it and presto-chango — like magic you have graceful alluring curves The unwanted bulge is evenly and comfortably banished There are 17 sectional features that effect flattering curves Keeps you smoothly shapely no matter what angle . . . sit, bend, stand or walk with comfortable, even grace The secret of glamorous stylish women is to look graceful and alluring with a thinned waist line

FEATURES Galore
17 Sectional Features . . . Streamline Waistline . . . Adjustable . . . Washable — made of Leno Lastex, satin faced rayon Fully guaranteed Lightweight Cool-Ventilated Will not wrinkle or ride up Sizes 20 to 40

ADJUSTABLE To Tailor-Made Fit

The adjustable features allow you to get the custom fit perfection, comfort and attractiveness of a tailor fit It's practically made to order for your figure Gives you poise and posture The 17 sections automatically mold your figure. You get the support you need with unbelievable comfort The specially designed concave effect permits HIDE-A-WAIST to adapt itself to your own diaphragm. You've never seen anything like it You've never enjoyed so much freedom comfort and style in anything else you've worn The four extra-length detachable garters complete HIDE-A-WAIST Comfortable too, without garters

You will look charmingly chic in your new Hide-A-Waist. Your stylish waistline will add new glamour to your favorite frocks . . . you will walk with an "air" of satisfaction and poise.

BEAUTIFUL IN YOUR HAND
EXQUISITE ON YOUR FORM

You'll marvel at the value and beauty when you see your new HIDE-A-WAIST . . . BUT . . . when you put it on and see your new self you'll be the happiest girl in the world You'll look as thin and graceful as a sixteen year-old nymph Order your HIDE-A-WAIST now It's new and not available in stores Order direct without risk You must be 100% delighted or we refund your money. Comes in sizes up to 40 The introductory price is indeed a bargain Sizes up to 34 only $2 98, plus postage Sizes 35 and over One Dollar extra (50c extra for the four extra-length detachable adjustable garters.)

ONLY 2.98 2 FOR $5.85

HIDE-A-WAIST Back View

10 DAY TRIAL FREE!

NOTE Fashion has emphasized the streamlined waist. Be up to the minute when you parade your pretty self . . . order your HIDE-A-WAIST now! Send direct to us for your HIDE-A-WAIST today Wear it 10 days FREE and, if not delighted, return for prompt refund of full purchase price Act at once, while this introductory offer is open. Just fill in coupon and drop it in the mail. We ship C.O.D plus postage But hurry coupon.

The S.J.Wegman Co. Dept. 578-H
35 Wilbur ST. Lynbrook,N.Y.

Rush my new HIDE-A-WAIST three-in-one at once. If I am not thrillingly satisfied I will return it after 10-day FREE trial for prompt refund of full purchase price.

Size . . . . . (waist size in inches).

Also send . . . . . sets of extra-length detachable and adjustable garters at only 50c for set of four.

☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus few cents postage.

☐ I enclose payment. The S. J. Wegman Co. will pay postage.

NAME . . . . . .

ADDRESS . . . . . .

REALISTIC ROMANCES, Aug.-Sept. 1954, Vol. 1, No. 17. Published bi-monthly by Avon Periodicals, Inc., 575 Madison Ave., New York 22, N. Y. Application for second class entry pending at the Post Office, New York, N. Y. One year subscription in the U. S. 60c plus 15c for packing and mailing—total 75c, elsewhere $1.50. Copyright, 1954 by Avon Periodicals, Inc. All names in this periodical are fictitious and no identification with actual persons is intended. Printed in U.S.A.

DANGEROUS WOMAN!

PAULA ROMAY WAS A COLD CALCULATING CREATURE WHO CRAVED *WEALTH* AND *POWER*. SHE USED HER CHARMS LIKE *WEAPONS*--MEN WENT MAD WITH *DESIRE* FOR HER *BEWITCHING BEAUTY*...AND LABELED HER A... *DANGEROUS WOMAN!!*

I-I'LL DO IT... FOR YOU, PAULA!

THE OLD FOOL WILL BE SLEEPING.. I'LL UNLOCK THE DOOR.. YOU'LL HOLD THE PILLOW OVER HIS FACE.. THEN WE'LL BE TOGETHER-- FOREVER!

Adarita

OUR STORY OPENS TEN YEARS AGO IN THE POORER SECTION OF A SMALL TOWN. PAULA WAS JUST A GIRL THEN.. BUT ONE WHO WAS ALREADY WORLDLY-WISE...

COME HERE, PAULA.. COME HERE, MY PET...

GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU PIG! MOTHER--' *HELP!*

HER MOTHER HAD RE-MARRIED AND THE GIRL NEVER FORGAVE HER FOR IT... BUT FAR WORSE THAN THAT WERE THE ATTENTIONS OF HER STEP-FATHER...

LEAVE HER ALONE, HARRY... SHE'S ONLY A KID!

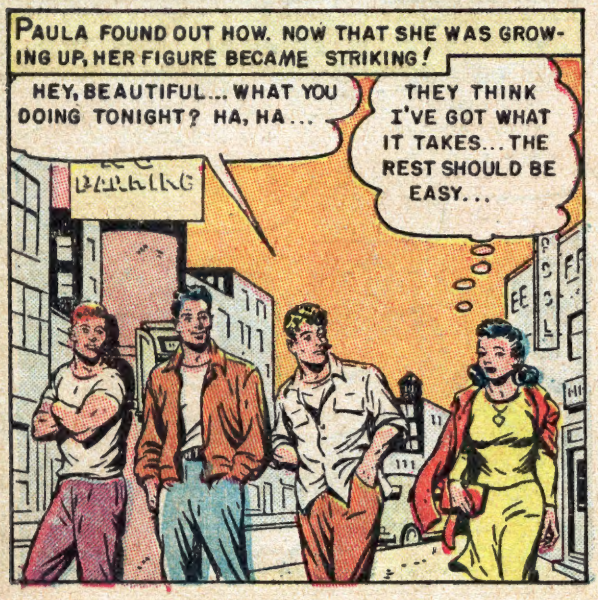
YAAA.. I KNOW THE WAY SHE LOOKS AT THE BOYS.. NO DAUGHTER OF MINE'S GONNA...

YOU'RE A DISGUSTING PIG WHO'S ALWAYS TRYING TO KISS ME...
I'LL SLAP THAT SMART-ALECKNESS OUT OF YOU!
LEAVE HER ALONE!

AND SO...PAULA GREW UP AN UNHAPPY, BITTER YOUNG GIRL...
WHY CAN'T I BE LIKE OTHER GIRLS? HAVE NICE CLOTHES AND GO OUT ONCE IN A WHILE?

LOOK AT THAT GIRL GETTING INTO THE NIFTY CAR... SHE'S NOT HALF AS PRETTY AS I AM...

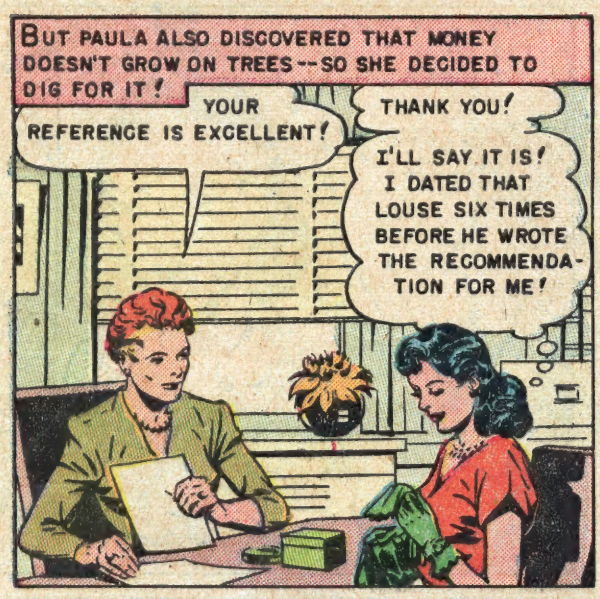
I BET I COULD BE RICH! THEN ALL THE MEN WOULD TAKE ME OUT...YES, BUT HOW... HOW?


PAULA FOUND OUT HOW. NOW THAT SHE WAS GROWING UP, HER FIGURE BECAME STRIKING!
HEY, BEAUTIFUL... WHAT YOU DOING TONIGHT? HA, HA...
THEY THINK I'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES... THE REST SHOULD BE EASY...
PARKING

BY THE TIME SHE WAS NINETEEN, THERE WASN'T A THING PAULA DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DO--WITH HER LOOKS...
YOU'D STEAL THAT DRESS FOR ME, WOULDN'T YOU, JOEY BOY?
GUESS I WOULD... TO PLEASE YOU!

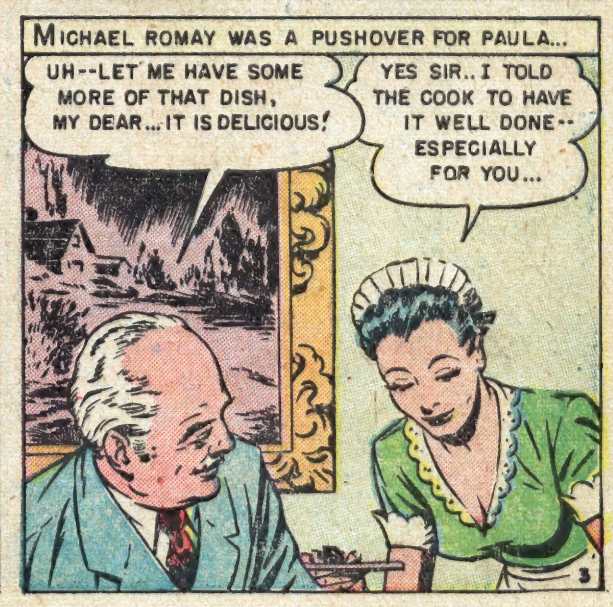
ONE YEAR LATER, SHE RAN AWAY TO THE BIG CITY.. THERE SHE SOON FOUND OUT HOW TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF...

BY THE TIME SHE WAS TWENTY-ONE, NO ONE WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED PAULA TO BE THE BRASH, TOUGH YOUNGSTER FROM A SMALL-TOWN'S SLUM AREA...
I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING! ONLY SAY YOU'LL MARRY ME!
SORRY, VINCENT! YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR ME--GOODBYE!

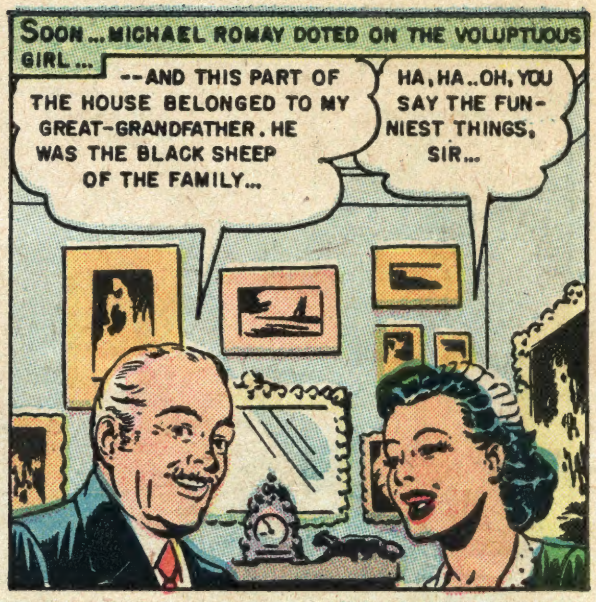

BUT PAULA ALSO DISCOVERED THAT MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES--SO SHE DECIDED TO DIG FOR IT!
YOUR REFERENCE IS EXCELLENT!
THANK YOU!
I'LL SAY IT IS! I DATED THAT LOUSE SIX TIMES BEFORE HE WROTE THE RECOMMENDATION FOR ME!

TWO DAYS LATER, IN ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST HOMES IN WESTCHESTER...
YOU WILL SEE THAT EVERYTHING IS SPIC AND SPAN!
YES SIR!
THIS IS THE FOURTH HOUSE I'VE SERVED AS A MAID. I HOPE I HIT THE JACKPOT THIS TIME...

PAULA'S QUIET EFFICIENCY MADE ITSELF NOTICEABLE.. ESPECIALLY TO MICHAEL ROMAY, THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE...
EVANS--WHO IS THAT GIRL?
THE NEW MAID, SIR!


MICHAEL ROMAY WAS A PUSHOVER FOR PAULA...
UH--LET ME HAVE SOME MORE OF THAT DISH, MY DEAR... IT IS DELICIOUS!
YES SIR.. I TOLD THE COOK TO HAVE IT WELL DONE--ESPECIALLY FOR YOU...

IT WAS SOON APPARENT THAT THE OLD MAN HAD TAKEN QUITE A FANCY TO HIS NEW MAID...
WILL YOU CLEAN MY POETRY BOOKS, PAULA?
YES SIR.. I LOVE POETRY MYSELF!

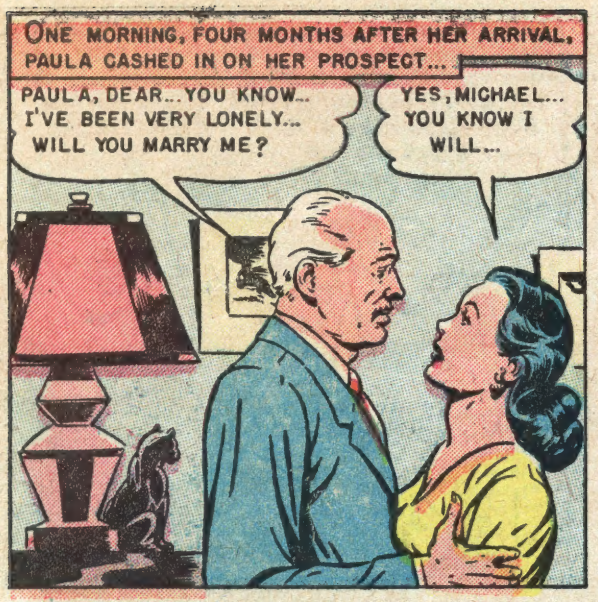

SOON...MICHAEL ROMAY DOTED ON THE VOLUPTUOUS GIRL...
--AND THIS PART OF THE HOUSE BELONGED TO MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER. HE WAS THE BLACK SHEEP OF THE FAMILY...
HA, HA..OH, YOU SAY THE FUNNIEST THINGS, SIR...

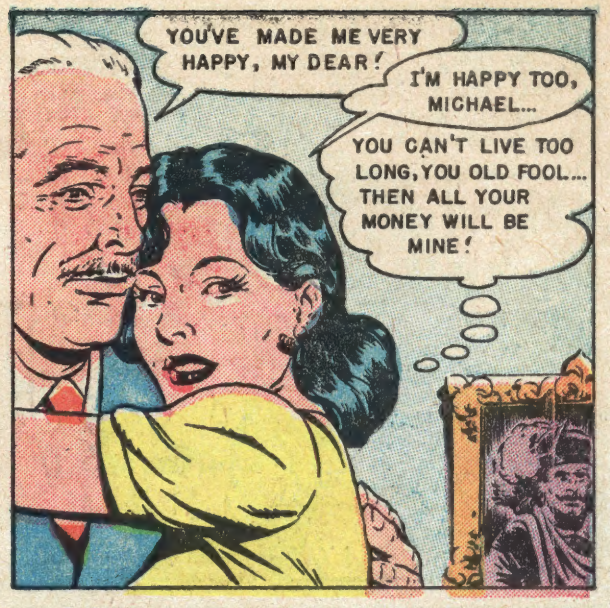
BUT PAULA FOUND UNEXPECTED ENEMIES...
I'D NOT BE MAKING EYES AT THE MASTER, MISS... WE KNOW YOU'RE AFTER HIS MONEY...I'D DISMISS YOU IN A MOMENT-- IF I COULD...
--FLIRTING WITH A MAN OLD ENOUGH TO BE YOUR GRANDFATHER..

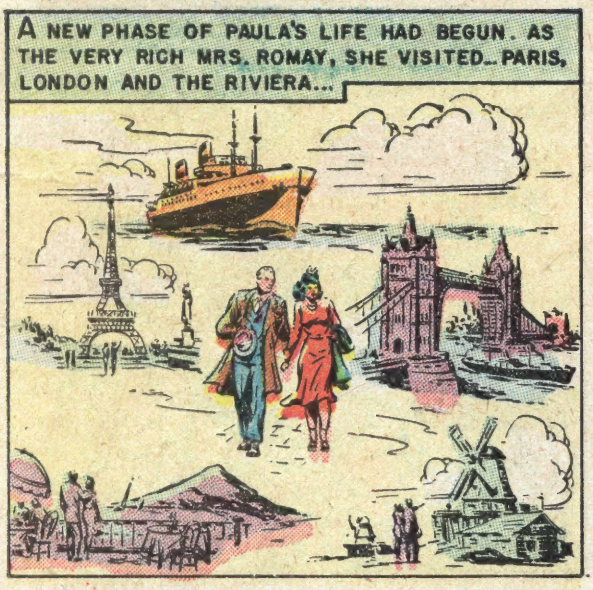
YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS! I'LL DO ANYTHING I PLEASE...

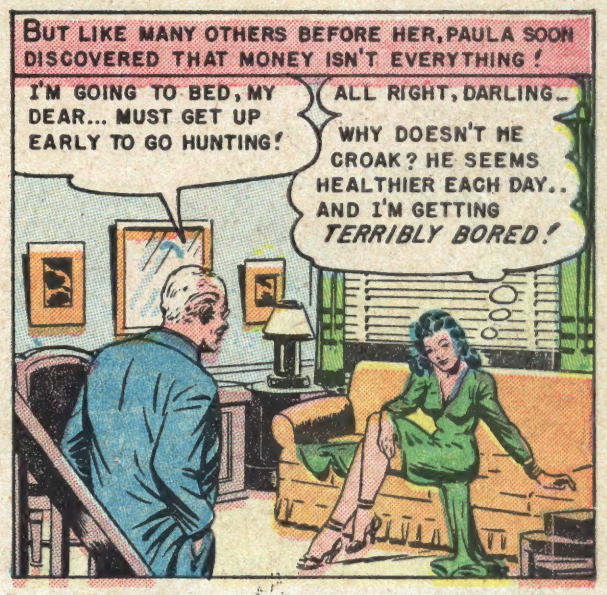
TWO WEEKS LATER...
I'VE DECIDED TO MAKE YOU MY SECRETARY, PAULA...
THANK YOU, MR. ROMAY... I'LL DO MY BEST TO PLEASE YOU...

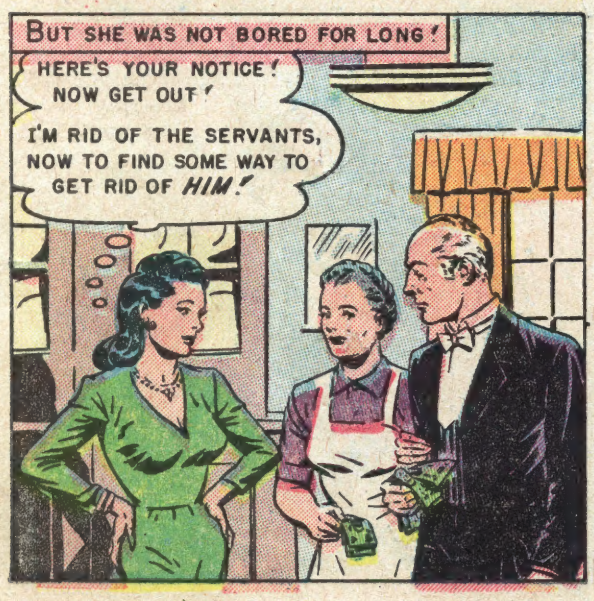
EVERY MORNING, PAULA WOULD FIND A HUGE BOUQUET OF ROSES ON HER DESK!
MR. ROMAY.. HOW SWEET OF YOU!
HARRUMPH! NONSENSE MY DEAR..NONSENSE!


ONE MORNING, FOUR MONTHS AFTER HER ARRIVAL, PAULA CASHED IN ON HER PROSPECT...
PAULA, DEAR... YOU KNOW... I'VE BEEN VERY LONELY... WILL YOU MARRY ME?
YES, MICHAEL... YOU KNOW I WILL...


YOU'VE MADE ME VERY HAPPY, MY DEAR!
I'M HAPPY TOO, MICHAEL...
YOU CAN'T LIVE TOO LONG, YOU OLD FOOL... THEN ALL YOUR MONEY WILL BE MINE!


A NEW PHASE OF PAULA'S LIFE HAD BEGUN. AS THE VERY RICH MRS. ROMAY, SHE VISITED... PARIS, LONDON AND THE RIVIERA...


BUT LIKE MANY OTHERS BEFORE HER, PAULA SOON DISCOVERED THAT MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING!
I'M GOING TO BED, MY DEAR... MUST GET UP EARLY TO GO HUNTING!
ALL RIGHT, DARLING...
WHY DOESN'T HE CROAK? HE SEEMS HEALTHIER EACH DAY.. AND I'M GETTING TERRIBLY BORED!


BUT SHE WAS NOT BORED FOR LONG!
HERE'S YOUR NOTICE! NOW GET OUT!
I'M RID OF THE SERVANTS, NOW TO FIND SOME WAY TO GET RID OF HIM!

BUT PAULA SHIED AWAY FROM ACTUAL VIOLENCE, AND THINGS WENT ON UNEVENTFULLY... ONE DAY AS SHE WATCHED THE NEW HANDYMAN...
HMM... I COULD GO FOR HIM... THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA...

PAULA LOST NO TIME IN MAKING THE HANDYMAN NOTICE HER.

WILL YOU GET THOSE FLOWERS FOR ME, MY HANDSOME MAX?

Y-YES, MA'AM... I...YOU...THEY BECOME YOU!

DON'T YOU FIND IT EXTREMELY WARM HERE? I HAD TO CHANGE INTO SOMETHING LIGHTER!

ULP...YES... IT'S VERY WARM...

BY SPRING, PAULA HAD MAX EATING OUT OF HER HAND...

OH, THEY'RE SIMPLY MARVELOUS! I LOVE FLOWERS!

I PLANTED THEM... ...FOR YOU!

ONE BRIGHT MORNING, AS PAULA TOOK HER DAILY RIDING LESSON FROM MAX...

OOOH... MAX—I'M FALLING—HELP!

DON'T BE AFRAID— I'VE GOT YOU!

SO YOU HAVE—*WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?*

THIS!

I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU, PAULA... I CAN'T STAND IT ANY MORE.

HOLD ME CLOSE, HONEY... CLOSE!

MAX'S LOVE WAS STRONG, HOWEVER, IT DIDN'T STOP HER FROM CARRYING OUT HER PLANS...
MAX! THINK HOW EASY IT WOULD BE... MAX...
STOP IT PAULA... DON'T TEMPT ME LIKE THIS...

MAX COULDN'T HOLD OUT FOR LONG...
JUST YOU AND ME, MAX-- ALL THIS MONEY... AND US!
ALL RIGHT... I... I'LL DO IT!

BUT LATER THAT DAY, AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR ARRIVED-- MICHAEL ROMAY'S SON HAD COME BACK FROM SCHOOL! PAULA HAD KNOWN ABOUT HIS CHILDREN, BUT SHE HADN'T PAID MUCH ATTENTION!
DAD! I HEARD YOU GOT MARRIED! WHAT... HOW... WHO...?
HA, HA... NOT SO FAST, TED! I WANT YOU TO MEET HER FIRST!

TED AND PAULA DIDN'T HIT IT OFF TOO WELL...
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, MICHAEL... I'M GOING FOR A STROLL. NICE MEETING YOU, TED!
BUT DEAR... I...
LET HER GO, DAD, MOTHER NEEDS HER FRESH AIR!

BUT PAULA DOUBLED BACK AND CREPT CLOSE TO THE WINDOW...
DAD! SHE'S AFTER YOUR MONEY-- CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?
BUT. I DON'T UNDERSTAND... PAULA HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY AFFECTIONATE...

THAT LOUSY KID IS RUINING EVERYTHING! MAX HAS TO DO IT TONIGHT! I'LL LEAVE THE DOOR UNLOCKED!

THAT NIGHT, WHILE MICHAEL ROMAY SLEPT...
NOW... MAX... NOW!
WHA-?

HELP--! HMMMMPH!

THERE--IT'S DONE! HURRY...GET OUT OF HERE! I'LL GO THROUGH WITH MY ACT IN THE MORNING...

BUT BEFORE PAULA COULD PUSH MAX OUT AND LOCK THE DOOR...
YOU--YOU FIENDS!
NO--! SHE MADE ME--SHE'S RESPONSIBLE...LOOK--AT--HER--FACE!!

HE'S LYING, TED! I--I LOVED HIM... I COULD GROW TO LOVE YOU TOO--SO VERY MUCH...
GET AWAY FROM ME--TRASH! BOTH OF YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS!

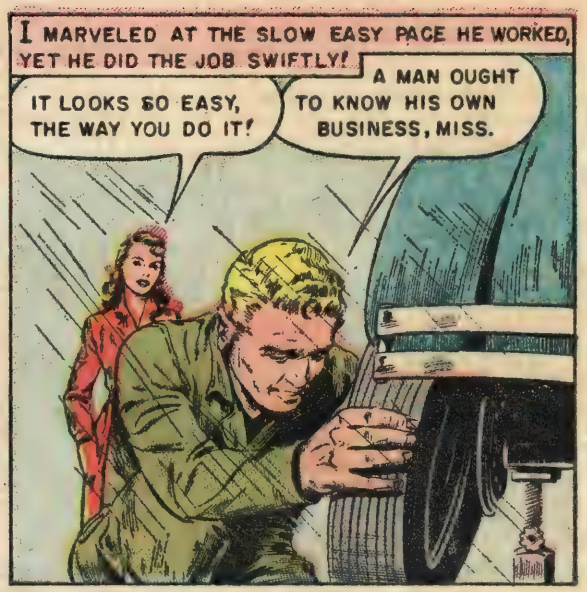
AND LATER, WHEN THE POLICE HAD ARRIVED...
LET ME GO... I'M INNOCENT... TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME...
THUS ENDS THE STORY OF PAULA ROMAY--- WHO WENT FROM RAGS TO RICHES ONLY TO BE CONDEMNED TO ETERNAL DAMNATION BECAUSE SHE CHOSE WEALTH RATHER THAN LOVE....

I CRAVED EXCITEMENT!

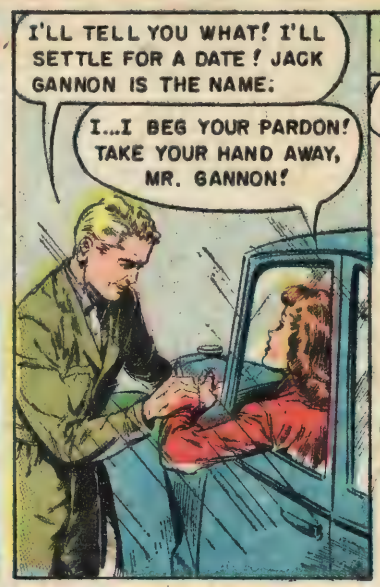
WITH *JACK* AWAY SO MUCH *I* WAS GROWING *BORED WITH MARRIAGE*. AND *LEE* WAS DELIGHTFUL COMPANY! SURELY NO ONE COULD BLAME ME, FOR...
I CRAVED EXCITEMENT!

LOVE, THEY SAY, IS WHERE YOU FIND IT. AND I MIGHT ADD TO THAT: *IF YOU RECOGNIZE IT!* ON THAT SATURDAY AFTERNOON IN SEPTEMBER, I WOULD NOT HAVE RECOGNIZED IT IF IT CAME UP AND GRINNED AT ME. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED...

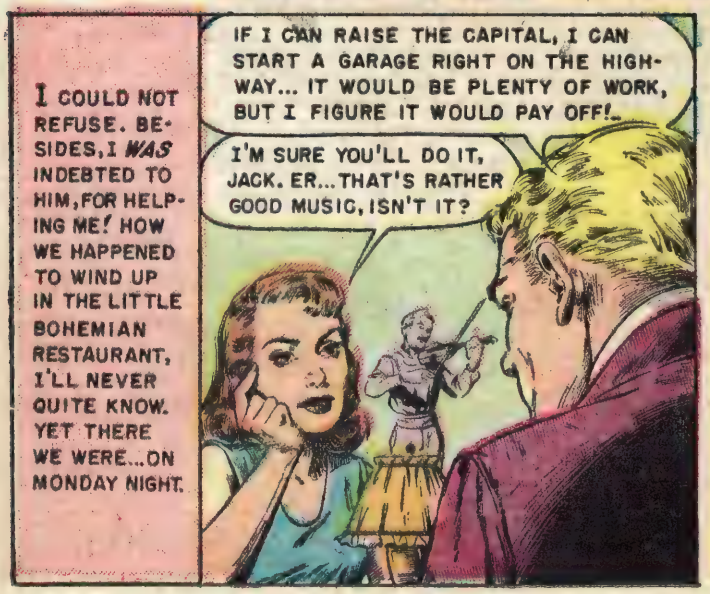
DON'T GET SORE AT *ME*, HONEY. YOU'RE MAD AT ALL THOSE JERKS WHO PASSED YOU BY WITHOUT STOPPING.
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY. I DO APPRECIATE YOUR STOPPING!

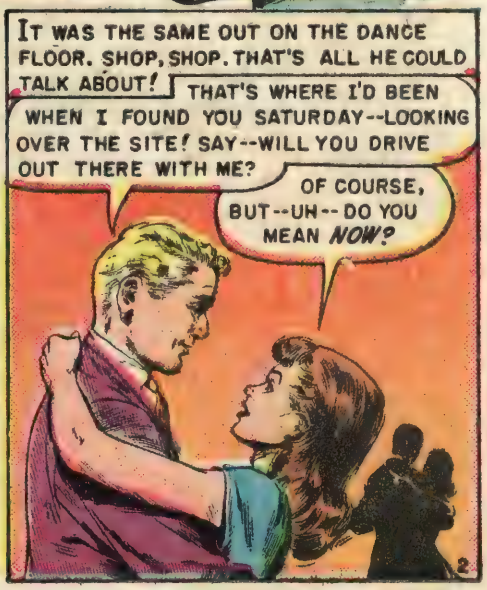

I MARVELED AT THE SLOW EASY PACE HE WORKED, YET HE DID THE JOB SWIFTLY!
IT LOOKS SO EASY, THE WAY YOU DO IT!
A MAN OUGHT TO KNOW HIS OWN BUSINESS, MISS.

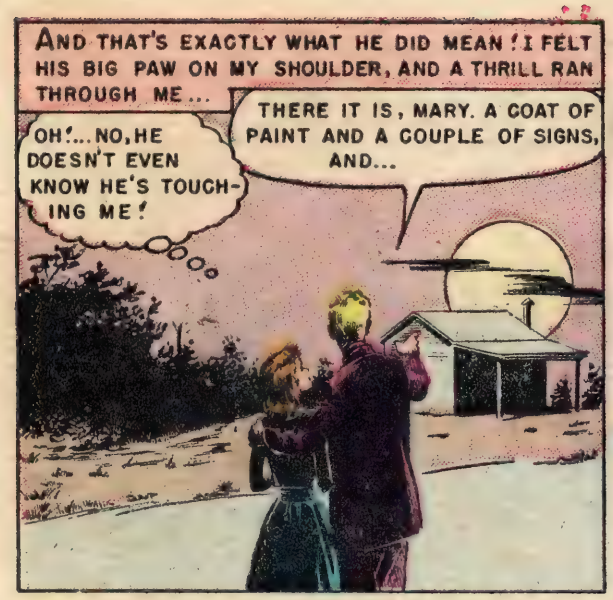
THERE, IT'S ALL FIXED UP!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU CHARGE. BUT THANKS AWFULLY. YOU CAN TAKE WHATEVER IT COST OUT OF THIS TEN.


I'LL TELL YOU WHAT! I'LL SETTLE FOR A DATE! JACK GANNON IS THE NAME.
I...I BEG YOUR PARDON! TAKE YOUR HAND AWAY, MR. GANNON!

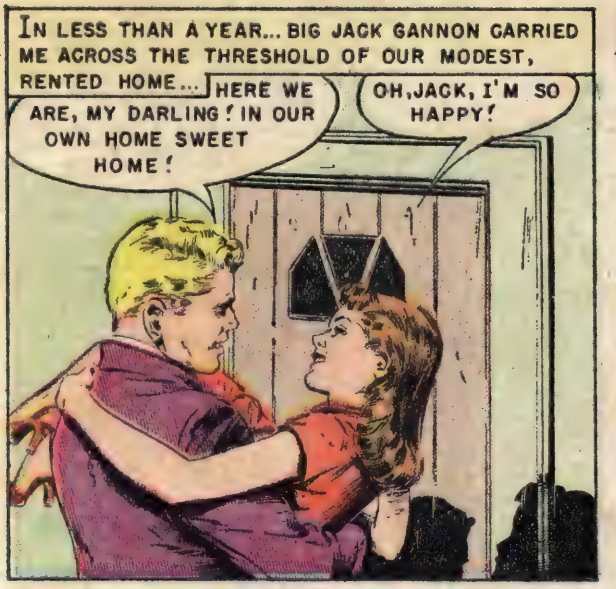
I SAW THE HURT COME INTO HIS EYES, AND I FELT ASHAMED!
I'M SORRY. BUT, YOU SEE, I...DON'T MAKE DATES WITH STRANGERS.
OF COURSE! BUT I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU AGAIN. WHY DON'T YOU LET ME FIX THE SPARE.. AND DELIVER IT IN PERSON?


I COULD NOT REFUSE. BESIDES, I *WAS* INDEBTED TO HIM, FOR HELPING ME! HOW WE HAPPENED TO WIND UP IN THE LITTLE BOHEMIAN RESTAURANT, I'LL NEVER QUITE KNOW. YET THERE WE WERE...ON MONDAY NIGHT.
IF I CAN RAISE THE CAPITAL, I CAN START A GARAGE RIGHT ON THE HIGHWAY... IT WOULD BE PLENTY OF WORK, BUT I FIGURE IT WOULD PAY OFF!..
I'M SURE YOU'LL DO IT, JACK. ER...THAT'S RATHER GOOD MUSIC, ISN'T IT?

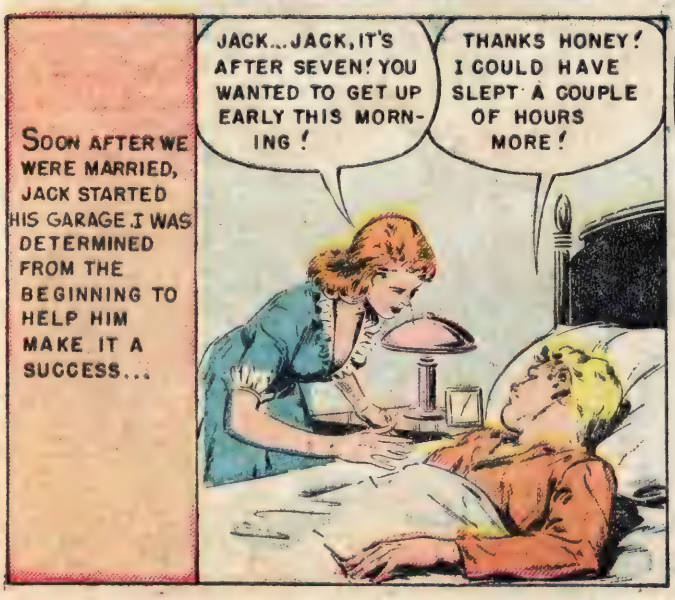

IT WAS THE SAME OUT ON THE DANCE FLOOR. SHOP, SHOP. THAT'S ALL HE COULD TALK ABOUT!
THAT'S WHERE I'D BEEN WHEN I FOUND YOU SATURDAY--LOOKING OVER THE SITE! SAY--WILL YOU DRIVE OUT THERE WITH ME?
OF COURSE, BUT--UH--DO YOU MEAN *NOW?*


AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE DID MEAN! I FELT HIS BIG PAW ON MY SHOULDER, AND A THRILL RAN THROUGH ME...
OH!... NO, HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HE'S TOUCHING ME!
THERE IT IS, MARY. A COAT OF PAINT AND A COUPLE OF SIGNS, AND...

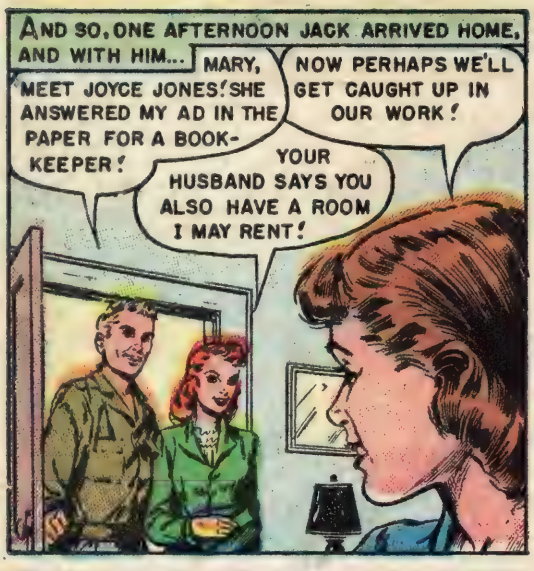
JACK SAID GOODNIGHT... I STOOD WATCHING THE OLD CRATE RUMBLE AWAY...
WHAT WAS IT THAT MADE ME LOVE THIS EVENING? WE DID NOTHING BUT TALK ABOUT HIS BUSINESS! YET... MARY FRANKLIN... ARE YOU FALLING IN LOVE...?


IN LESS THAN A YEAR... BIG JACK GANNON CARRIED ME ACROSS THE THRESHOLD OF OUR MODEST, RENTED HOME...
HERE WE ARE, MY DARLING! IN OUR OWN HOME SWEET HOME!
OH, JACK, I'M SO HAPPY!

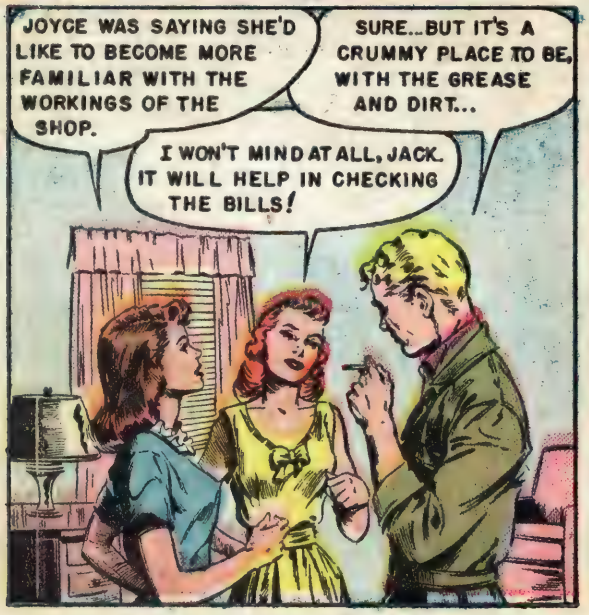
JACK KISSED ME WHILE I WAS STILL IN HIS ARMS. IT WAS OUR FIRST KISS IN OUR NEW HOME...


SOON AFTER WE WERE MARRIED, JACK STARTED HIS GARAGE. I WAS DETERMINED FROM THE BEGINNING TO HELP HIM MAKE IT A SUCCESS...
JACK... JACK, IT'S AFTER SEVEN! YOU WANTED TO GET UP EARLY THIS MORNING!
THANKS HONEY! I COULD HAVE SLEPT A COUPLE OF HOURS MORE!

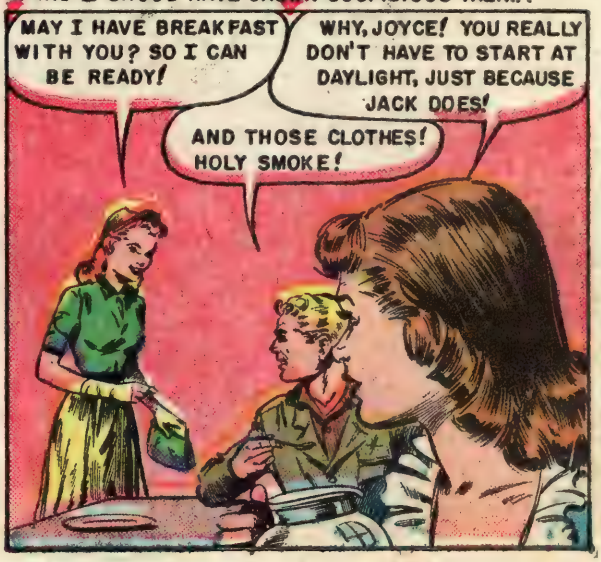
JACK, YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD! REMEMBER, YOU CAN'T MAKE IT ALL THE FIRST YEAR!
I KNOW, BUT THIS FIRST YEAR, I'VE GOT THE BIGGEST EXPENSES... I HAVE BEEN NEGLECTING YOU, THOUGH, HAVEN'T I?

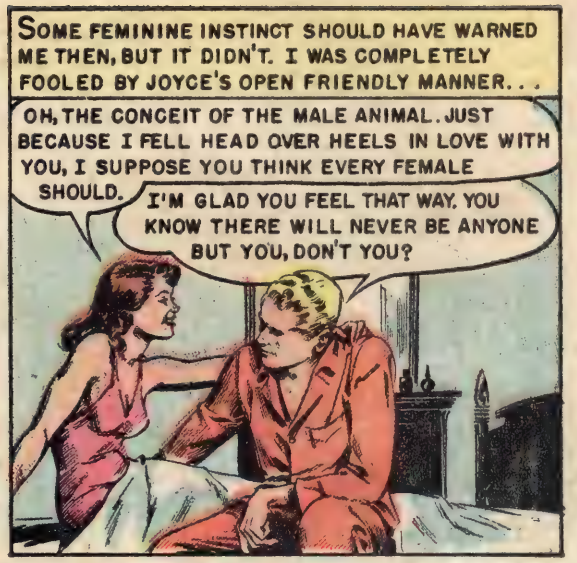


THE SHOP WAS A MAN'S PLACE SO JOYCE AND I WORKED AT HOME. I CONSIDERED HER A CHARMING PERSON...

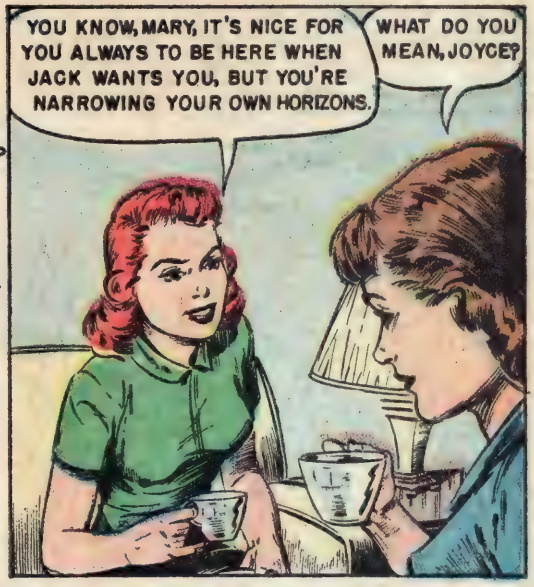


WE HARDLY EXPECTED SUCH ENTHUSIASM ON JOYCE'S PART. I SHOUD HAVE GROWN SUSPICIOUS THEN...





THE NEXT DAY JOYCE DID NOT GO TO THE SHOP WITH JACK. SHE SEEMED TO HAVE SOMETHING ON HER MIND...



LEE COOK! THE MAN WAS CHARMING, AND I SCARCELY REALIZED THAT JOYCE WAS TAKING A BACK SEAT...

JOYCE TELLS ME YOUR HUSBAND IS A HARD WORKER. I WONDER HOW HE CAN LEAVE YOU FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR!

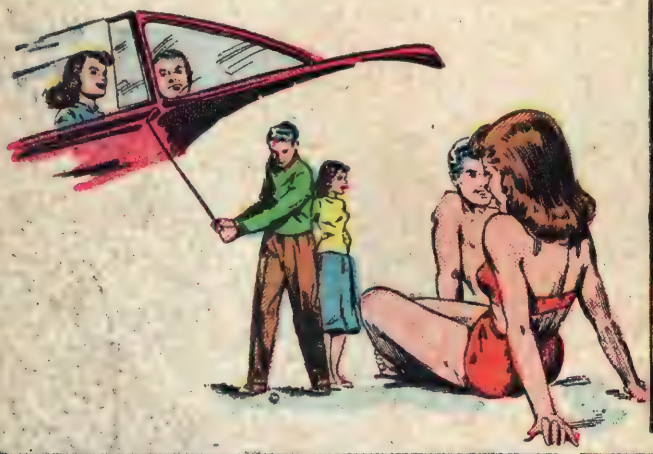
KEEP TALKING, LEE! I LOVE FLATTERY!

THAT NIGHT JACK WAITED UP FOR ME AND LISTENED AS I GAVE HIM A GLOWING ACCOUNT OF THE EVENING...

I'M GLAD YOU HAD FUN, PET. BUT AGAIN, I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT A GUY WHO TELLS YOU HE DABBLES IN THE MARKET.

OH, YOU'RE JUST BEING AN' OLD GRUMPY!

JOYCE MADE IT QUITE EVIDENT THAT LEE WAS NOT HER PROPERTY AND THERE WERE MANY TIMES WHEN LEE COOK AND I WENT OFF BY OURSELVES. THE MORE I SAW OF LEE THE MORE I BECAME ATTRACTED TO HIM...



THEN... I BEGAN TO COMPARE JACK WITH LEE... AND UNFAVORABLY. WITHOUT REALIZING IT, I WAS CHANGING MY ATTITUDE TOWARD HIM...

HELLO, DARLING... HOW COME YOU'RE NOT OUT WITH JOYCE AND LEE COOK?

LEE HAD TO GO OUT OF TOWN AND JOYCE HAD ANOTHER APPOINTMENT. YOU'LL FIND YOUR SUPPER IN THE OVEN, PROBABLY COLD!

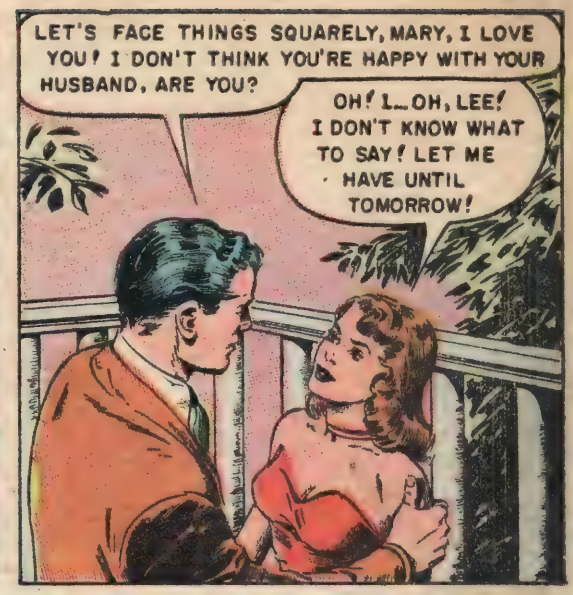
DID YOU MISS ME TODAY, HONEY? AREN'T YOU GOING TO KISS ME?

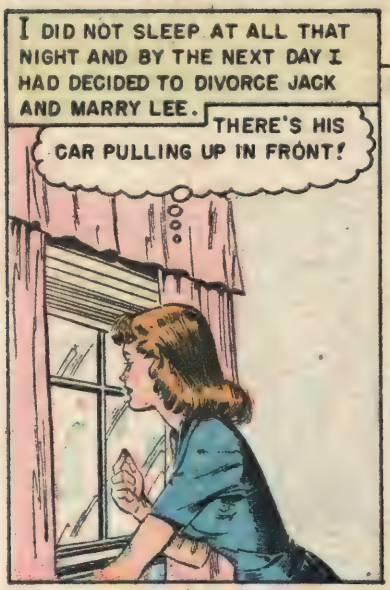
JACK, I WISH YOU WOULDN'T... NOT UNTIL YOU'VE WASHED UP!

I'M TOO TIRED TO EVEN FIGHT WITH YOU, MARY! I THINK AFTER SUPPER I'LL TURN IN.

I THINK I'LL BE GOING INTO TOWN TOMORROW EVENING WITH LEE... *AND* JOYCE!

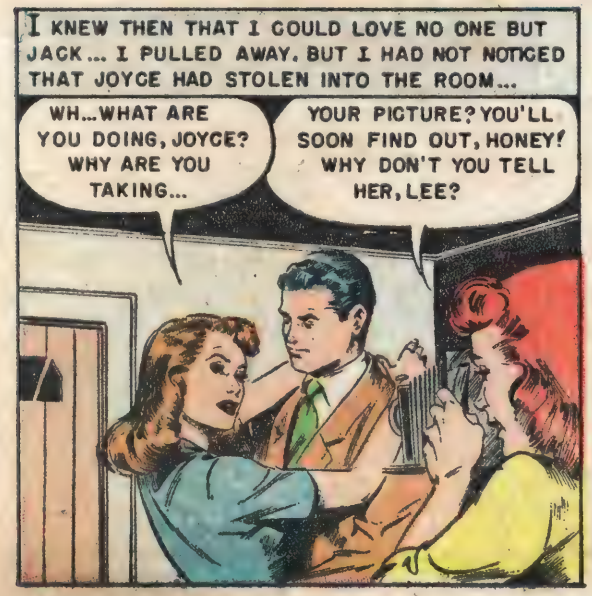
AND SO THE INEVITABLE HAPPENED AS, OF COURSE, IT WAS BOUND TO DO!
OH ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL OUT HERE, LEE? DON'T YOU LOVE THE FRESH SMELL OF SUMMER IN THE AIR?
MARY...

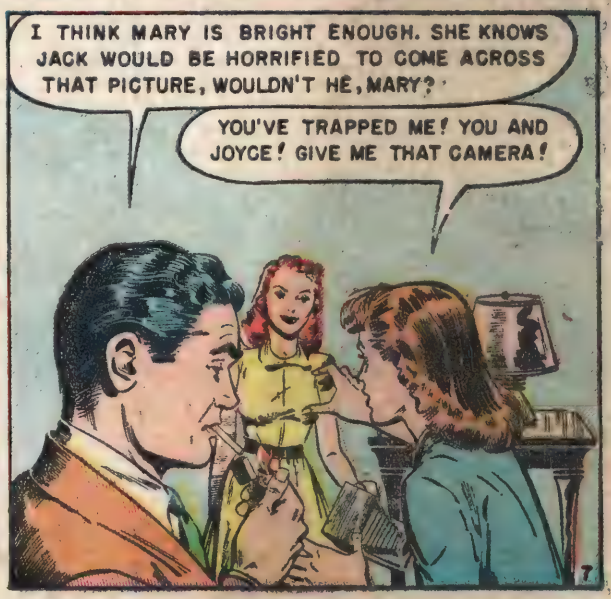

LET'S FACE THINGS SQUARELY, MARY, I LOVE YOU! I DON'T THINK YOU'RE HAPPY WITH YOUR HUSBAND, ARE YOU?
OH! I...OH, LEE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY! LET ME HAVE UNTIL TOMORROW!

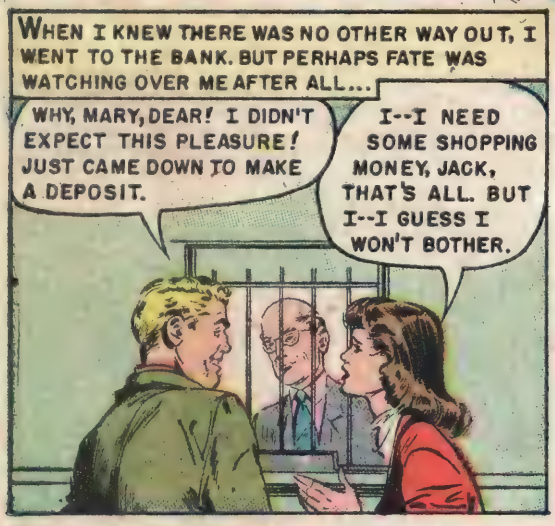

I DID NOT SLEEP AT ALL THAT NIGHT AND BY THE NEXT DAY I HAD DECIDED TO DIVORCE JACK AND MARRY LEE.
THERE'S HIS CAR PULLING UP IN FRONT!

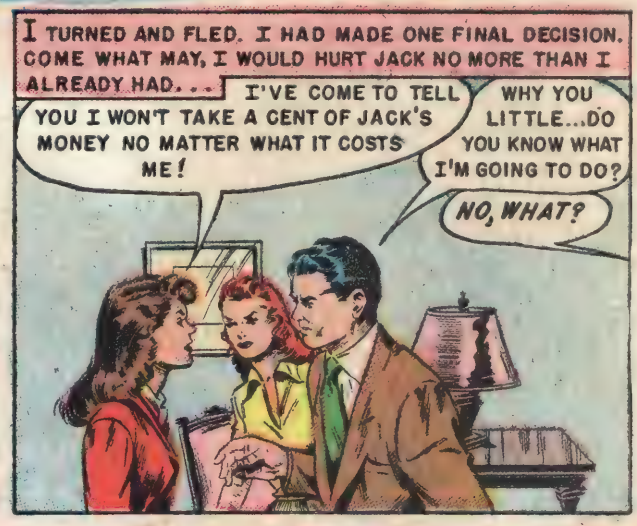
AS LEE ENTERED, I RUSHED TO HIS ARMS.
LEE! I'VE COME TO MY DECISION!
MARY! DARLING!

HIS LIPS MET MINE IN A KISS, AS THEY DID, I SUDDENLY FELT A STRANGE REPULSION TOWARD HIM COME OVER ME...
OH...NO...


I KNEW THEN THAT I COULD LOVE NO ONE BUT JACK... I PULLED AWAY. BUT I HAD NOT NOTICED THAT JOYCE HAD STOLEN INTO THE ROOM...
WH...WHAT ARE YOU DOING, JOYCE? WHY ARE YOU TAKING...
YOUR PICTURE? YOU'LL SOON FIND OUT, HONEY! WHY DON'T YOU TELL HER, LEE?


I THINK MARY IS BRIGHT ENOUGH. SHE KNOWS JACK WOULD BE HORRIFIED TO COME ACROSS THAT PICTURE, WOULDN'T HE, MARY?
YOU'VE TRAPPED ME! YOU AND JOYCE! GIVE ME THAT CAMERA!

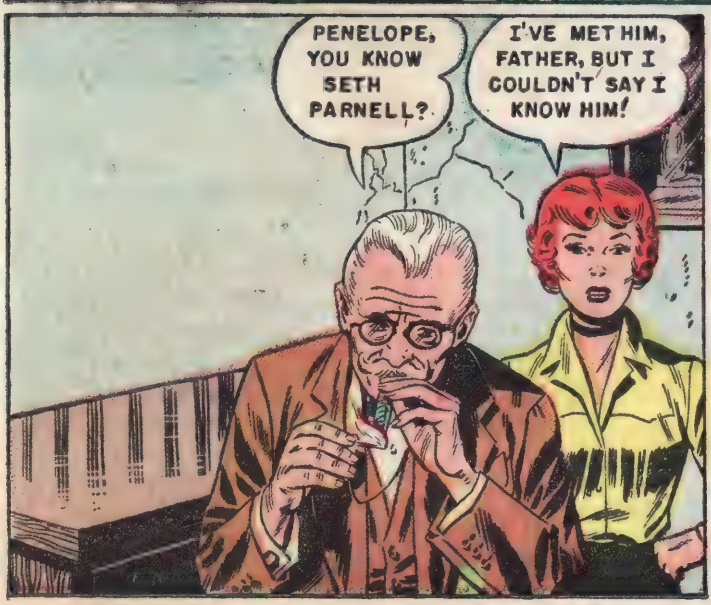




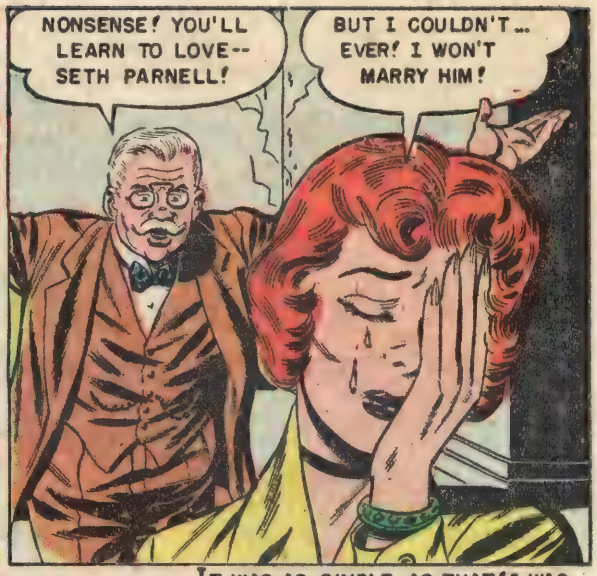
SUDDENLY I WAS IN JACK'S ARMS SOBBING OUT THE WHOLE STORY. I FELT HIS BODY TIGHTEN. THEN HE SAID QUIETLY: 'I SEE I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU MORE ATTENTION IN THE FUTURE...'

BRIDE of FEAR!

TO MY *FATHER*--I WAS A *PAWN* THAT COULD BE *SOLD* TO BUY THE SECURITY OF HIS *OLD AGE*. TO MY *HUSBAND*--I WAS A *POSSESSION*, --FOR HIS OWN PLEASURE. I WAS A *BRIDE OF FEAR!*

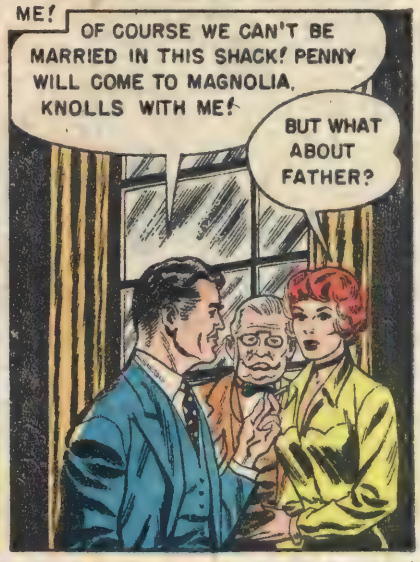


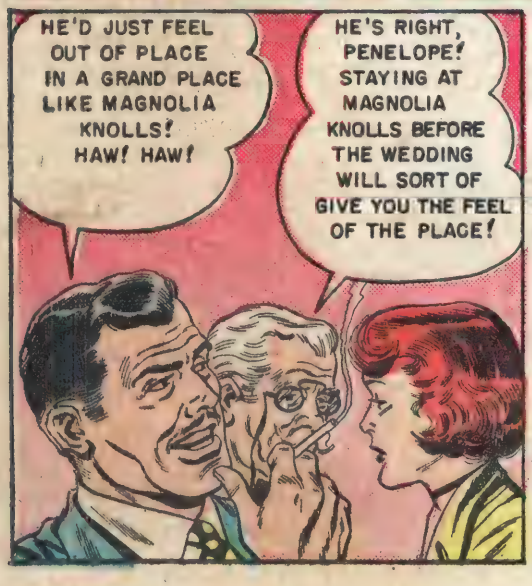
SO MUCH THE BETTER! WHAT CAN A YOUNG WHIPPERSNAPPER OFFER YOU?
LOVE! AND I COULD LOVE HIM!

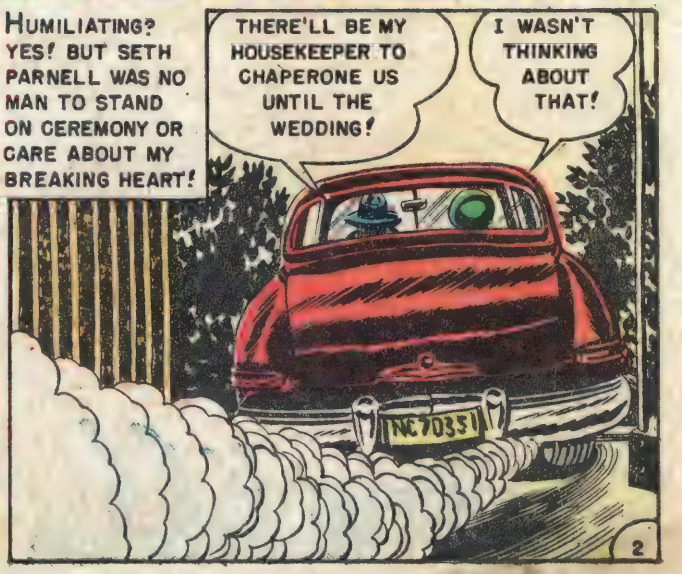

NONSENSE! YOU'LL LEARN TO LOVE-- SETH PARNELL!
BUT I COULDN'T... EVER! I WON'T MARRY HIM!

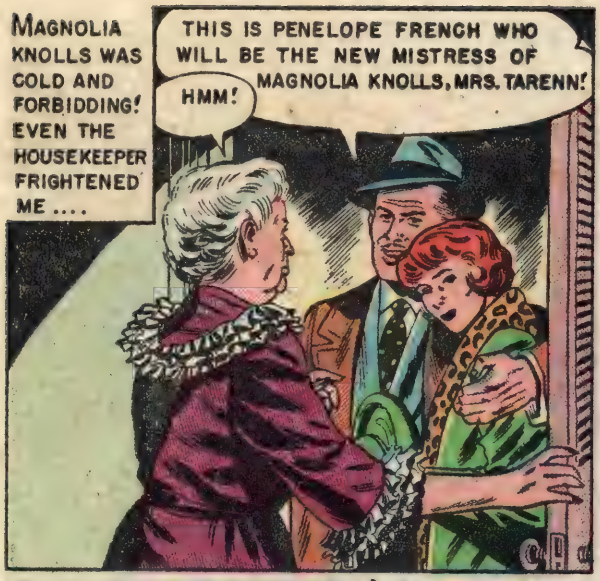
I WON'T FORCE YOU INTO IT! IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I'M DESTITUTE IN MY OLD AGE!
OH, FATHER, IS THAT WHAT IT WILL MEAN TO YOU?

I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK I'D TRADE YOU FOR MY OWN SECURITY! BUT SETH IS A GOOD MAN! HE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, FATHER! I--I'LL MARRY SETH PARNELL!


IT WAS AS SIMPLE AS THAT! I WAS BEING SOLD TO SETH PARNELL! DAYS LATER MY FIANCE ARRIVED TO CLAIM ME!
OF COURSE WE CAN'T BE MARRIED IN THIS SHACK! PENNY WILL COME TO MAGNOLIA KNOLLS WITH ME!
BUT WHAT ABOUT FATHER?


HE'D JUST FEEL OUT OF PLACE IN A GRAND PLACE LIKE MAGNOLIA KNOLLS! HAW! HAW!
HE'S RIGHT, PENELOPE! STAYING AT MAGNOLIA KNOLLS BEFORE THE WEDDING WILL SORT OF GIVE YOU THE FEEL OF THE PLACE!


HUMILIATING? YES! BUT SETH PARNELL WAS NO MAN TO STAND ON CEREMONY OR CARE ABOUT MY BREAKING HEART!
THERE'LL BE MY HOUSEKEEPER TO CHAPERONE US UNTIL THE WEDDING!
I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT THAT!
NC 70351


MAGNOLIA KNOLLS WAS COLD AND FORBIDDING! EVEN THE HOUSEKEEPER FRIGHTENED ME ....
THIS IS PENELOPE FRENCH WHO WILL BE THE NEW MISTRESS OF MAGNOLIA KNOLLS, MRS. TARENN!
HMM!

THIS IS YOUR ROOM!
ER.. THANK YOU!

IT'S SO STRANGE, SO FULL OF SHADOWS!

AND THEN AN EERIE CRY CHILLED MY BLOOD!
HELP! E-E-O-O-O-H-H-H! LET ME OUT OF HERE!
GOOD HEAVENS!

MRS. TARENN, DID YOU HEAR IT? IT WAS HORRIBLE!
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

A CRY... LIKE A MAN IN PAIN... IT CAME FROM SOMEWHERE UPSTAIRS!
I DIDN'T HEAR A THING!

YOU MUST BE IMAGINING THINGS!
BUT I HEARD IT! I KNOW IT!

SUDDENLY-- I HEARD IT... AGAIN AND AGAIN...
EEOOOH!

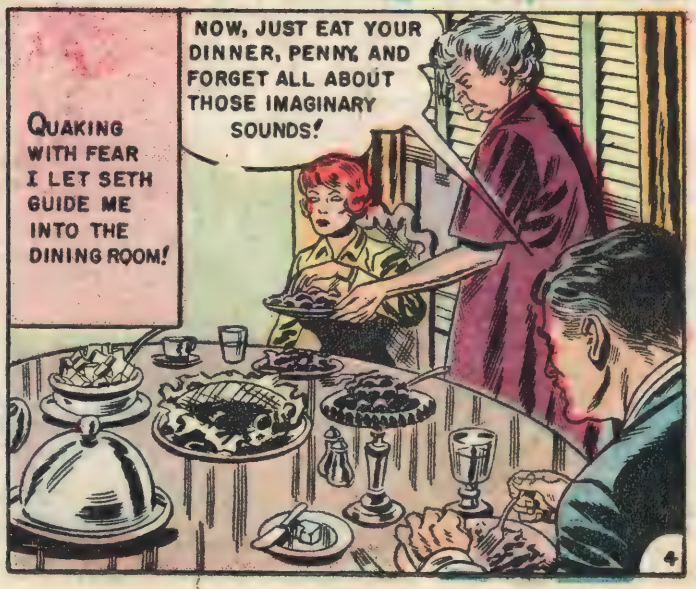
I MUST GET OUT OF HERE! THERE'S SOMETHING EVIL IN THIS HOUSE.

WHERE ARE YOU RUNNING, PENNY?
SETH, YOU HEARD THAT TERRIBLE CRY, DIDN'T YOU?

PENNY, YOU'RE TIRED! WHY, MAGNOLIA KNOLLS IS SO QUIET YOU CAN HEAR A PIN DROP!
BUT I HEARD IT, I TELL YOU! IT WAS TERRIBLE!

REVULSION SEIZED ME AS SETH PRESSED ME CLOSER TO HIM...
JUST RELAX, DEAR, AND YOU'LL FEEL MUCH BETTER!
NO! PLEASE!

DINNER, MR. SETH!
PENNY, SOME FOOD WILL FIX YOU UP FINE! SOOTHE YOUR NERVES!


QUAKING WITH FEAR I LET SETH GUIDE ME INTO THE DINING ROOM!
NOW, JUST EAT YOUR DINNER, PENNY, AND FORGET ALL ABOUT THOSE IMAGINARY SOUNDS!

FEAR GRIPPED ME! I WAS AFRAID OF HEARING THE TERRIBLE CRIES AGAIN. I WAS AFRAID OF SETH AND MRS. TERENN AND THE OLD HOUSE! SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO GET THROUGH DINNER! THEN...

THERE WAS COLD GLOOM ALL ABOUT ME, AS I GOT INTO BED!

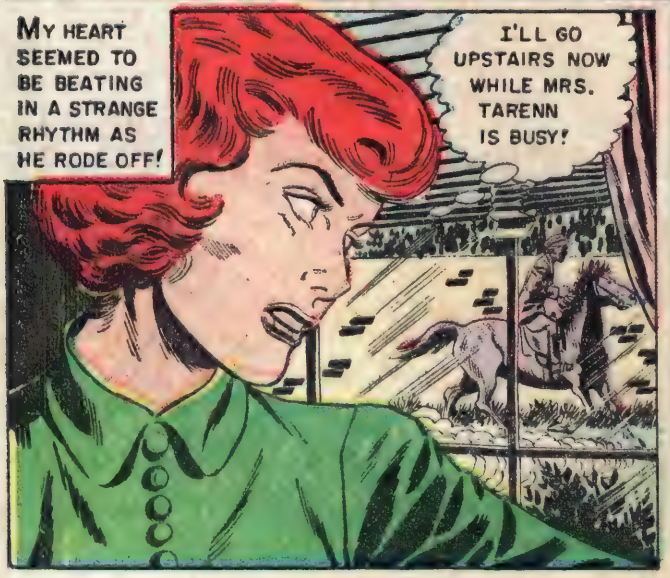
AT LAST I FELL ASLEEP! I WAS AWAKENED BY THAT SAME PIERCING CRY FROM ABOVE!
OH, IT'S TOO HORRIBLE!

I STARTED TO GET OUT OF BED, THEN REMEMBERED SETH'S WARNING!
I CAN'T GO TO SETH! HE'LL ONLY IGNORE ME!

I HUDDLED UNDER THE BLANKETS FOR THE REST OF THAT NIGHT!
TOMORROW I MUST KNOW THE ANSWER REGARDLESS OF THE RISK!

HAVE A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, PENNY?
ER... YES... THANK YOU!

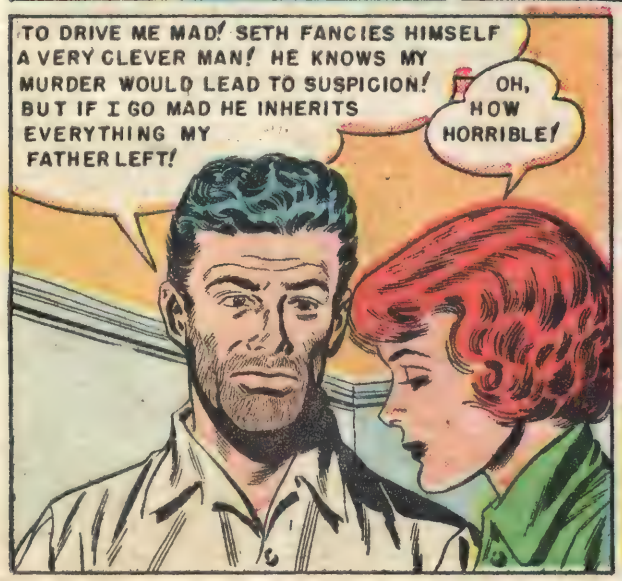
FINE! FINE! I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE YOU ALONE FOR AWHILE THIS MORNING! GOT TO SEE ABOUT THE COTTON DOWN IN ONE OF THE SOUTH FIELDS!
YES, SETH!


MY HEART SEEMED TO BE BEATING IN A STRANGE RHYTHM AS HE RODE OFF!
I'LL GO UPSTAIRS NOW WHILE MRS. TARENN IS BUSY!

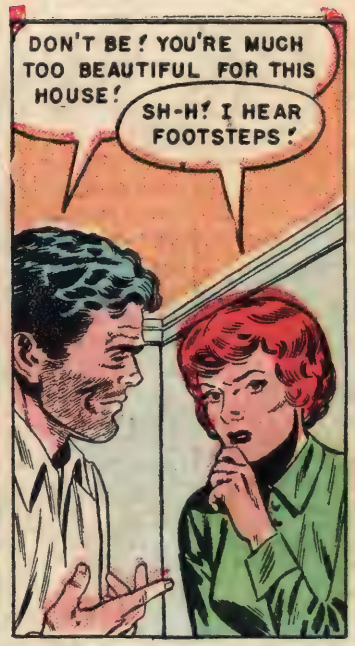
THIS IS THE FLOOR ABOVE MINE! NOTHING HERE! BUT THERE'S STILL ANOTHER FLOOR ABOVE THIS!

AS I STOOD FROZEN TO THE SPOT, I HEARD THE WRENCHING CRASH OF METAL BREAKING AWAY FROM WOOD! AND THEN THE SOUND OF A BODY HURLING ITSELF AGAINST THE DOOR!

THE DOOR CAME CRASHING DOWN... AND BEFORE ME STOOD A TALL HANDSOME MAN!



ODD, HOW MANY TIMES I'VE TRIED TO BREAK LOOSE... AND TODAY, WHEN I FINALLY MUSTERED THE STRENGTH... I FIND YOU!
I... I'M SORRY!


DON'T BE! YOU'RE MUCH TOO BEAUTIFUL FOR THIS HOUSE!
SH-H! I HEAR FOOTSTEPS!

I TELL YOU, MR. SETH, I SAW HER GOING UP! THAT'S WHY I WENT AFTER YOU!
I'LL HANDLE HER! I WAS GOING TO TELL HER ABOUT JED LATER, BUT FIRST I HAD TO TEACH HER TO FEAR AND OBEY ME, SO SHE WOULDN'T BLAB!

SO, YOU FINALLY MADE IT, EH JED? TOO BAD FOR YOU! YOU'LL HAVE TO DIE NOW!
IT ISN'T IN THE CARDS, SETH! I'VE SUFFERED TOO MUCH TO LET YOU WIN!

JED AND SETH STRUGGLED FOR THE GUN...
WHA-WHA...? YOU'VE KILLED HER!
BANG!

THE STEEL HURTS, DOESN'T IT, SETH? JUST A TASTE OF WHAT I FELT EACH DAY FOR SIX MONTHS!

WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER, PENNY! WE HAVE TOO BRIGHT A FUTURE TO EVEN THINK OF THE PAST!
WITH YOU JED, I KNOW IT WILL BE EASY!
THE END

NIGHTMARE ROMANCE!

WHAT ABOUT FRAN? WHY DON'T YOU USE *POISON* TO GET RID OF HER?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER, BABY--- RIGHT AFTER WE GET THE MONEY--- WE'LL SKIP TOWN--- AND SHE'LL NEVER KNOW!

OH, WAYDE ---- HOW CAN YOU TREAT ME THIS WAY? YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOU MEAN TO ME!

I HAD A CHOICE OF MANY *MEN* WHO WERE *YOUNG, RICH, FAMOUS*...BUT I SPURNED THEM ALL AND DEVOTED MYSELF TO MY *BUSINESS CAREER*...UNTIL I MET *WAYDE*... *WAYDE* OF THE *SMILING FACE* AND *MYSTERIOUS PAST* WHO MADE MY NIGHT'S *MOMENTS OF PARADISE*...WHO AWAKENED IN ME A *FLAMING, PASSIONATE DESIRE!* THIS IS THE STORY OF A... *NIGHTMARE ROMANCE*

SITTON

MODEL AGENCY

I'M WRITING THIS FROM A HOSPITAL BED, WITH A POLICEMAN ON GUARD OUTSIDE MY DOOR. I HAD BEEN OPERATING A SMALL, BUT PROSPEROUS, MODEL AGENCY BEFORE ALL THIS HAPPENED---

MISS CARTWRIGHT--- WILL YOU SEE THAT THESE PAPERS ARE FILED?

A MODEL AGENCY SOUNDS COSY TO RUN, BUT ISN'T! I HAD NINETEEN GIRLS IN TRAINING AND SOME SEVENTY AVAILABLE FOR JOBS. BUSINESS WAS BRISK...

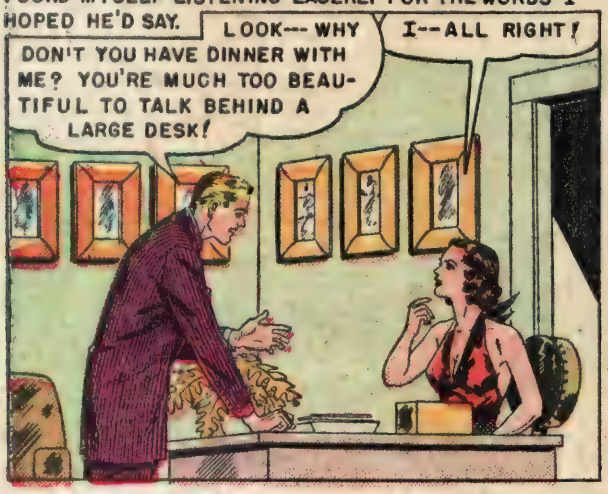
OH, AND WILL YOU PLACE THIS AD IN THE SUNDAY PAPER, DEAR?

OF COURSE, MISS EDWARDS!

I ADVERTISED...A MAN TO ORGANIZE THE JOB PLACEMENTS AND LEAVE ME FREE TO CONCENTRATE ON THE EXPANSION OF MY SCHOOL. I INTERVIEWED DOZENS OF APPLICANTS FOR THE JOB---AND NONE IMPRESSED ME...

NONE---THAT IS, UNTIL WAYDE HANLEY WALKED INTO MY OFFICE ONE BRIGHT, BEAUTIFUL AFTERNOON...

I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE ORDERED HIM OUT OF MY OFFICE FOR THE BOLD WAY HE LOOKED AT ME...INSTEAD, I FOUND MYSELF LISTENING EAGERLY FOR THE WORDS I HOPED HE'D SAY.

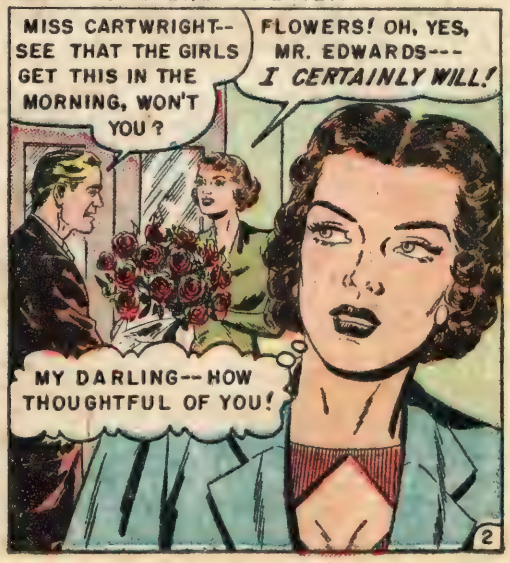


THERE WAS NO USE PRETENDING--I HAD FALLEN HARD---FOR A MAN I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT! LATER THAT NIGHT, WAYDE DROVE ME HOME...

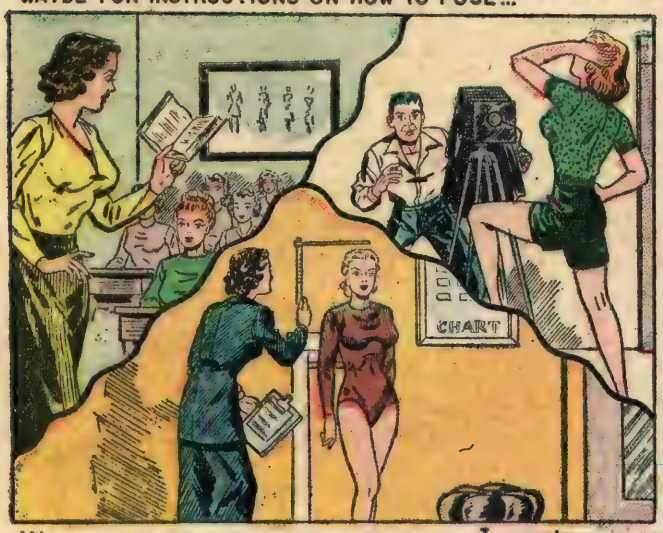
I WAITED FOR HIM TO KISS ME THEN---YES! I DIDN'T CARE IF WE WERE STRANGERS..I LOVED HIM WITH ALL MY HEART!

THE NEXT MORNING I INTRODUCED WAYDE TO MY STAFF...

WITHIN A MONTH, WAYDE WAS RUNNING THE AGENCY QUIETLY, EFFICIENTLY!



I TRAINED THE GIRLS, AND THEN TURNED THEM OVER TO WAYDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO POSE...



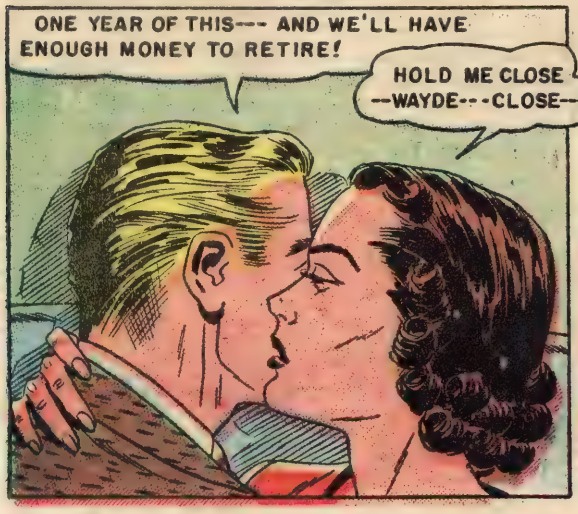
IN THAT ONE MONTH, WAYDE BECAME EVERYTHING TO ME! BUT HE NOW WAS BEGINNING TO SELECT GIRLS FOR OUR MODELING COURSES, AND THEY WERE GETTING YOUNGER AND CRUDER — LIKE GLORIA PORTER!

WHO WAS SHE? THERE SEEMED TO BE SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY THEY LOOKED AT EACH OTHER---!?

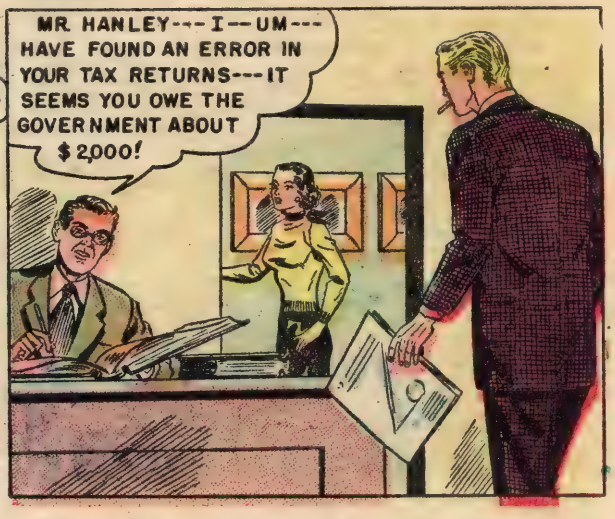
I DIDN'T QUESTION HIM FURTHER. IT WAS THE ABRUPT DISAPPEARANCE OF ONE OF OUR MODELS, THAT OPENED MY EYES! ONE NIGHT, AT HOME ---

SO IT WAS BLACKMAIL! GLORIA AND WAYDE WOULD SHAKE DOWN THEIR "CLIENTS" AND GIVE THE MODELS WHO ATTENDED THE PARTIES 10% OF THE TAKE! IF THE GIRLS REFUSED, THEY WERE ELIMINATED IN VARIOUS WAYS---/ USUALLY THROUGH HIRED KILLERS...

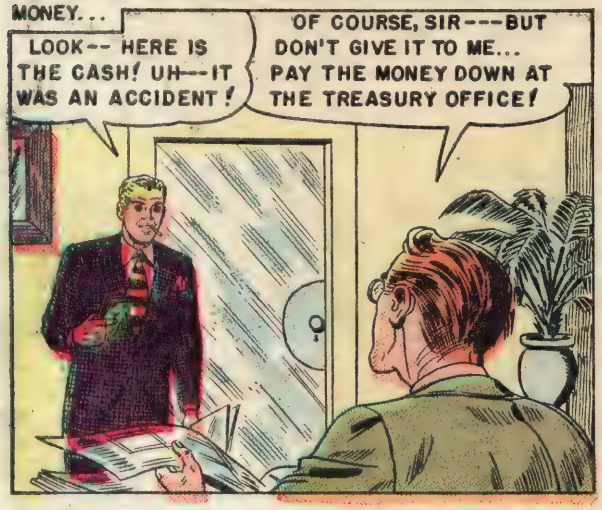
I TRIED TO REASON WITH HIM--- BUT WAYDE REACHED OUT AND PULLED ME OVER TO THE COUCH BESIDE HIM. I KNEW I HAD LOST!



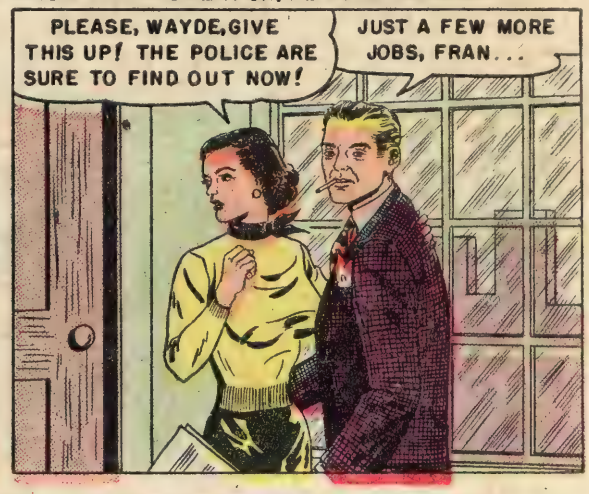
I WAS FILLED WITH SHAME AND FEAR, AND LIVED ONLY TO BE WITH WAYDE! THEN HE MADE HIS FIRST MISTAKE...



OUR TAX RETURNS WERE DELIBERATELY FIXED! MR. PARSONS WOULD NOT HAVE THOUGHT TWICE ABOUT THE MATTER, HAD NOT WAYDE OFFERED HIM MONEY...



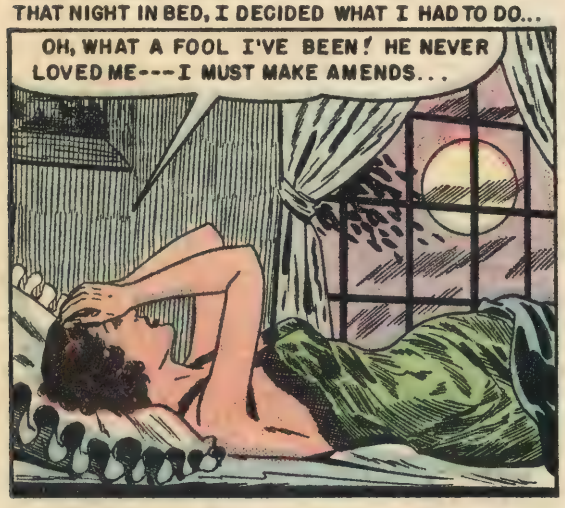
THIS WAS HIS SECOND MISTAKE---WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO HAVE THAT MUCH CASH! MR. PARSONS APPEARED NOT TO NOTICE THE SLIP--BUT FROM THAT MOMENT ON, WE WERE WATCHED...



WAYDE NOW HAD GLORIA TAKING THE CALLS FOR PARTY GIRLS AT HER APARTMENT, AND I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL FOR ME! UNTIL THE NIGHT I WENT BACK TO THE OFFICE TO DO SOME EXTRA WORK!

WHAT GLORIA SAID ROOTED ME TO THE SPOT!

I DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR ANYMORE! QUIETLY, I MOVED ACROSS THE OFFICE, AND OUT THE DOOR. THAT NIGHT IN BED, I DECIDED WHAT I HAD TO DO...

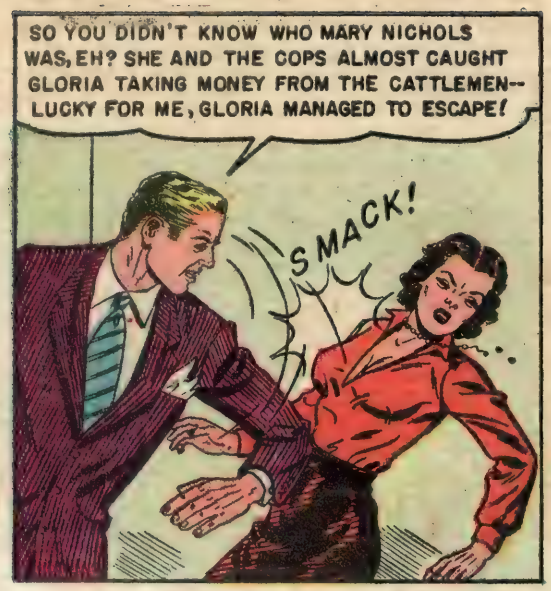


THE NEXT MORNING, BEGGING A HEADACHE, I CALLED WAYDE AND TOLD HIM I WOULD BE LATE FOR WORK. A HALF-HOUR LATER, I WAS IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE...

OFFICER MARY NICHOLS SHOWED UP AT THE SCHOOL, THE NEXT DAY, LOOKING LIKE A HIGHSCHOOL KID. WAYDE DIDN'T NOTICE HER AT FIRST. BUT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND WEEK, HE SENT FOR HER WITH SOME OTHER NEW GIRLS...

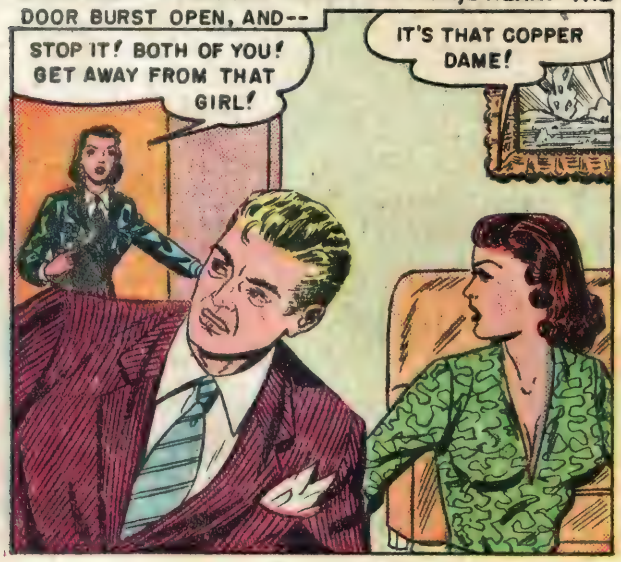
ALL THROUGH THE EVENING, THE TENSION MOUNTED. WAYDE, HAVING ACCOMPANIED ME TO MY APARTMENT, READ THE ANXIETY IN MY MANNER!

JUST THEN---THE PHONE RANG--- AND WAYDE PICKED IT UP! GLORIA'S VOICE AT THE OTHER END CHANGED HIS EXPRESSION TO A GRIM, MENACING LOOK DIRECTED AT *ME!*



I LAY STUNNED ON THE FLOOR, WHILE WAYDE RAVED AND RANTED OVER ME! JUST THEN THERE WAS A LOUD KNOCKING AT THE DOOR, AND GLORIA HURRIED INSIDE...

SUDDENLY--- THROUGH A MIST OF PAIN, I HEARD THE DOOR BURST OPEN, AND--

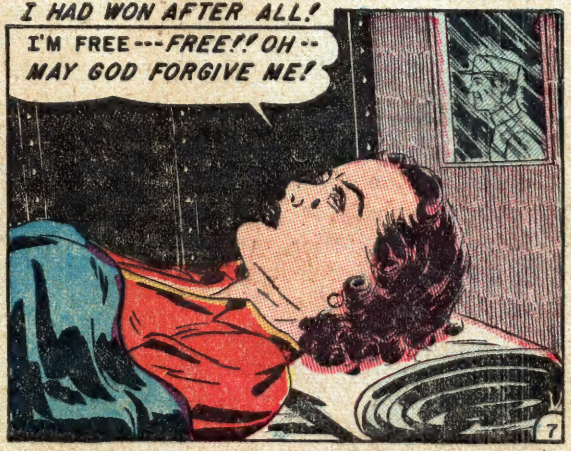


WAYDE FLUNG HIMSELF ON MARY NICHOLS!

WAYDE POINTED THE GUN AT MARY NICHOLS! HIS FINGER SLOWLY TIGHTENED ON THE TRIGGER-- I STOOD THERE--HEART POUNDING WILDLY--MY BREATH CAME IN GASPS---IT WAS NOW OR NEVER--

I LAY ON THE FLOOR, HUGGING MYSELF TIGHT TO STOP THE FLOW OF BLOOD. THERE WAS A TENDER EXPRESSION ON MARY'S AND THE D.A'S FACES AS THEY BENT OVER ME---!

THE AMBULANCE CAME A FEW MINUTES LATER-- I WAS GENTLY RAISED UP AND INTO IT--AND-- AS THE DOORS SLAMMED SHUT, I FELT MYSELF DELIVERED FROM THE EVIL LUST AND PASSION THAT HAD EATEN INTO MY SOUL LIKE A CANKER. *I HAD WON AFTER ALL!*



HOW MY HUSBAND PROPOSED !

RX—Prescription for Love

Three years ago I was working as a nurse at one of the large, overcrowded hospitals which wage a never-ending war to take care of the ailing people of New York City. Every available inch of bed space was taken up, and there just weren't enough nurses on hand to satisfy the demands of all the patients. As a result of this shortage of trained nurses those of us who were on ward duty were worn to a frazzle at the end of the day.

The hard, demanding work was just about getting the best of me when a tall, blond intern by the name of Joe Fields was assigned to the ward which I supervised. From then on my everyday duties became more pleasant and meaningful. I would wait expectantly for eleven o'clock to come around, for it was at eleven o'clock that Joe started his rounds. It wasn't very intimate, just handing him his instruments and marking the patient's chart while Joe made the examination, but I found that Joe's very presence in a room made it a more interesting place for me to be.

Finally, after weeks of working together in the ward, he asked me for a date. I knew what a hardship it is for an interne to take a girl out, and I was duly flattered. An interning doctor doesn't have much time off, and after essential expenses are deducted from his tiny salary very little is left to spend on girls. So I insisted that Joe come up to my apartment for a home-cooked meal, after which he could take me out to a movie. We had a wonderful time on our first evening together, and from that date on we were a twosome. Everyone accepted us as a couple, and by the time Joe's year of interning was almost up, *even we* were aware that we were heads-over-heels in love with each other!

But the day when Joe would leave the hospital drew nearer and nearer, and he had not once mentioned the word I had been straining to hear—*marriage!* Finally, about a week before his appointment expired, we were making the ward rounds when I broke down and ran from the ward, crying. Joe ran after me and caught me in a hospital corridor.

"What's the matter, Nan?" he asked anxiously.

"Just nerves, I guess," I gulped. Joe gave me a searching look. He reached into the pocket of his white coat for a prescription pad and scribbled on it for a moment.

"Better have this filled," he smiled. The prescription read: *RX: one husband, to be taken immediately in large doses. Continue treatment for lifetime.*

What could I do? He was the doctor!

—*Mrs. Nancy Fields,*
Gadsden, Alabama

Life Savers in Love!

I was one of the Sawyer's from Lake Quinsigamond. The Sawyer family had lived on the shores of the lake for generations, dating way back to the days of the Revolution. We weren't just "summer people", either; Sawyer kids skated on the lake during the winter and swam in it during the summer.

I was no exception. I swam clear across the lake for the first time when I was ten. By the time I was nineteen I was so familiar with every part of that lake that I felt as if I owned it.

Every Labor Day weekend there was a big swimming meet at the public beach. It was traditional in our family that the Sawyers had to win at least a few of the events. Four years ago the prospects didn't look so good, though. My brother Charles was in Japan with the marines, Jack was stationed at Spokane, Washington with the Navy, and I felt very all-alone.

Nevertheless, I signed up for an ambitious six events, much to the amazement of the husky young life-guard who had charge of registering the contestants. He told me he thought that I was biting off much more than I could chew, and I got pretty fresh when I answered him back (I'll never forget how he flushed brick-red with anger under his even tan!).

Of course, though, he was perfectly right. I *was* lucky enough to win three of those events and to place in all the others, but the effort took every ounce of strength in my

body. When I had completed my last event I could see that the handsome guard was following me with his eyes, and I did one of the most vain, stupid, unthinking things possible. I walked down to the shore, posed for a second to show off my figure, then dove in and started swimming steadily out toward the middle!

I had not gone very far when my tired and overtaxed body began to complain. I had just about decided to turn around and head back to shore when an agonizing pain shot up the entire length of my left leg, paralyzing it and making it impossible for me to kick. I tried to float until the cramp left me, but the pain made it impossible to keep my balance. My arms felt as if I had great lumps of lead at the end of them instead of hands. I swallowed some water and went under a couple of times, only to splash up sputtering and coughing, my ears ringing hollowly.

Imagine my surprise and relief when, suddenly, I felt an arm hook around my chin and and I heard a cool, easy voice say, "Just relax, Miss Sawyer, and I'll tow you into port!" It was Bob Cheroka, the life guard I had wanted to impress!

I almost died of mortification when Bob pulled me onto land once more, but it turned out that he was a pretty understanding and wonderful guy. He didn't tease or scold about my foolishness, but instead asked me for a date! Naturally, I accepted, and that first date was the beginning of a love that ripened with each passing day.

It was seven months after Bob pulled me out of the water that we sat by the lake shore one winter evening. Bob tossed another log on the fire and took his pipe from his mouth. "Kaye," he said, "I saved your life once. Now will you save mine?"

I became alarmed. "Why, darling," I said, "what can I do?"

"Marry me!" was the reply.

Bob, Jr. has just been born. We can't wait to take him swimming!

—Mrs. K. M. Cheroka, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

Darling, Of Course!

Chet and I had taken each other for granted all the way through high school. As it often happens in small towns, we just drifted together without either of us doing a great deal of pursuing. We saved our Saturday nights for each other automatically, and when we were invited anywhere it was as a couple that we went.

When we finished High, Chet went on to the state university where he majored in agriculture. But State is only thirty miles from our town, and he commuted daily for four years, so our relationship was changed but little by his going to college.

His graduation day brought good news. His father was ready to back him with a farm of his own! We all scurried around for weeks looking at likely spreads, but when the right one was found, it was Chet himself who discovered it. Everyone had to admit that it was a beautiful place. It had wide, rolling acres of pastureland, with a trout stream running right through it, a large, modern barn, and a beautiful, almost-new house. I thought that it wouldn't be too long before my name would be changed, but, alas, I soon saw that matrimony wasn't occupying Chet's mind. He was too busy with animal husbandry! The weeks rolled into months, and Chet seemed very content to lead the life of the young bachelor farmer. And I became more and more discouraged!

Finally, tired of moping around the house waiting for Chet to put his cows to bed, I decided to start accepting other dates. It was fortunate for me that the very first fellow who asked me out was Jack Rollins. Jack had the reputation of being the town "fast boy", but he had never treated me with anything but the utmost respect, so I had no compunctions about accepting when he asked if he could take me to the movies.

I had just gotten dressed that Saturday evening, and was waiting for Jack to arrive, when a madman strode into our parlor. Chet was so angry it is surprising that he wasn't frothing at the mouth. He didn't even say hello.

"No girl that I'm going to marry is going to go out with Jack Rollins!" he shouted. He ranted and raved for about five minutes, and then I finally got a few words in edgewise.

"Who said I'm the girl you're going to marry?" I asked politely.

He had started to open his mouth to say something. Now he was struck dumb but his mouth stayed open. His face became red, and then white. He swallowed.

"You are, aren't you?" he said quietly.

Jack Rollins was the first person we told!

Mrs. Chester Belfer, Southboro, North Dakota

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